1. TYPES OF SCHOOLS

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|  | FRANCE | | ITALY | | POLAND | | SPAIN | |
| STATE SCHOOLS | 87.7 % of primary school pupils  78.7 % of secondary school pupils | |  | | public-sector schools 98 % | | 67.6 % of mainstream education  91.9 % of specialized education | |
| OBLIGATORY AGE | 6 – 16 | | 6 – 16 | | 5 – 16 | | 6 – 16 | |
| PRE-PRIMARY  [years of age] | *Ecole Maternelle*  2 – 6 [optional] | | *Scuola dell’infanzia*  (nursery schools)  3 – 6 | | *Przedszkole*  3 – 4 [optional]  5 – obligatory | | 0 – 6  *escuelas de educación infantil* – 3 years  *Centros de Educación Infantil y Primaria* – 3 years  [optional] | |
| PRIMARY  [years of age] | *Ecole Primaire*  6 – 11   * the fundamental learning cycle [2 years] * consolidation cycle   [3 years] | | *Scuola primaria*  (first cycle of education - primary school)  6 – 11 | | *Szkoła podstawowa*  7 – 13 (6 years from 2012)   * early school education – integrated teaching   [3 years]   * teaching based on separate subjects   [3 years] | | *Educación Primaria*  6 – 12  [3 two-year cycles] | |
| LOWER SECONDARY  [years of age] | *Collège*  11-15   * observation and adaptation cycle * central cycle * guidance cycle   after the 4th year [final year of *college*], pupils continue in:   * general 3rd year * professional discovery 3rd year * 3rd year preparing for vocational training, * DIMA (introductory work/study vocational course) | | *Scuola secondaria di primo grado* (first cycle of education – lower secondary school)  11 – 14 | | *Gimnazjum*  13-16 | | *Educación Secundaria Obligatoria*  12 – 16  [2 two-year cycles] | |
| UPPER SECONDARY  [years of age] | *Lycée général et technologique ou lycée professionnel* (general and technological secondary school or professional secondary school) | 15 – 18 | *Secondo ciclo di istruzione*(second cycle of education): | | *Lliceum ogólnokształcące* (general upper secondary school) | 16-19 | *Instituto de Educación Secundaria* (secondary education  school) | 16 – 18 |
| *Liceo classico* (general upper secondary school specialising in classical studies)  *Liceo scientifico* (general upper secondary school specialising in scientific studies)  *Liceo linguistico* (general upper secondary school specialising in foreign languages)  *Liceo delle scienze umane* (general upper secondary school specialising in human  sciences)  *Liceo musicale e coreutico* (general upper secondary school specialising in music and  dance)  *Liceo artistico* (general upper secondary school specialising in arts subjects) | (14) 16-19 |
| *Liceum profilowane* (specialised upper secondary school) | 16-19 | *Instituto de Educación Secundaria* (secondary education  school)  *Centro Integrado de*  *Formación Profesional* (vocational training  integrated school)  *Centros*  *del Sistema Nacional de*  *Emple*  (employment national  system school) | 16 – 18 |
| *Technikum* (technical upper secondary school) | 16-20 |
| *Istituto tecnico* (technical school) | (14) 16-19 | *Zasadnicza szkoła zawodowa* (basic vocational school) | 16-18/19 | *Conservatorio* (conservatory) | not specified |
| *Llycée professionnel* (professional secondary school) | 15 – 17/18 | *Istituto professionale* (vocational school) | (14) 16-19 | *Uzupełniające liceum ogólnokształcące* (supplementary general upper secondary school) | 18/19-20/21 years of age | *Escuela de Arte* (arts school) | at least 16/17 years of  age [variable duration] |
| *Technikum uzupełniające* (supplementary technical upper secondary school) | 18/19-21/22 years of age | *Instituto de Educación Secundaria* (secondary education  school  *Centro Integrado de Formación Profesional* (vocational training  integrated school)  *Centro de*  *enseñanza militar* (military school) | at least 16/17 years of  age [at least 1000 hours] |
| *Istruzione e formazione professionale* (vocational education and training system) | (14) 16-17 | *Szkoła policealna* (post-secondary non-tertiary school) | 19-21 years of age (very rarely 20) |

1. SCHOOL YEAR ORGANISATION

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|  | FRANCE | ITALY | POLAND | SPAIN |
| TERMS  [number & length] | 5 [7 weeks]  3 [12 weeks] | 33 teaching weeks | 2 [19 weeks each;  final year of secondary school – 30 weeks] | 3 [c. 11 weeks each] |
| SCHOOL DAYS per YEAR | 180 | minimum of 200 | minimum of 178 | minimum of 175 |
| BEGINNING | beginning of September | beginning of September | beginning of September | first fortnight of September |
| END | beginning of July | within 10th -12th of June | end of June | late June |
| BREAKS BETWEEN TERMS | 2 weeks  [every 7 weeks] | no break | 2 weeks  [January or February] | at Christmas and Easter |
| CLASSES per WEEK  [average] | max. 30 | on average:  27 – primary school  30 – lower secondary | ??? – primary school  up to 35 – secondary school | 25 – primary school  30 – secondary school |
| CHRISTMAS | 18 December – 4 January | 23 December- 8 January | 23 December – 1 January | 2 weeks  [22 December – 8 January] |
| EASTER |  |  | 6 days | c. 1 week |
| SUMMER HOLIDAYS | July and August | mid-June – August | July and August | 2.5 months  [late June – mid-September] |
| OTHER HOLIDAYS | All Saints’ holidays [???] | All Saints’ Day [1 November]  8th December  Easter holidays (one week) | All Saints’ Day [1 November]  12th Night [6 January]  1 May  Constitution Day [3 May]  Corpus Christi | Autonomous Community establishes the school calendar every year;  frequent odd days and long weekends [religious holidays, regional and national holidays;  12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country) |
| CLASS SIZE | on average:  25 – primary schools  28 – general and  technological *lycées* | 15 – 26/27 – primary schools  18 – 27/30 – lower secondary schools | primary school: max. 26  up to 36 – secondary school | primary school: max. 25  up to 30 – secondary school |
| CLASS LENGTH  [minutes] | 55 – 60 | 50 – 60 | 45 | 55 → 60 |
| BREAKS | 5 – 10 minutes between classes 1 – 2 hour for lunch | 15 minutes (11.00-11.15) | 5 – 20 minutes between classes | 30 minutes after 3 hours |
| LUNCH AT SCHOOL | regular lunch [some schools] no snacks | no | regular lunch [some schools]  snacks [most schools] |  |
| DAYS / WEEK | Monday – Friday / Saturday | Monday – Friday / Saturday | Monday – Friday | Monday – Friday |

1. OBLIGATORY SCHOOL SUBJECTS

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|  | FRANCE | ITALY | POLAND | SPAIN |
| PRIMARY | basic learning skills: reading, writing, arithmetic, development of motor skills and sensitivity | Italian, English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Science, Technical Education And ICT, Music, Art and Drawing, Sport Sciences | Stage 1 (grades 1-3, primary school): early school education | Spanish Language and Literature, co-official Language and Literature of the Autonomous Community (if applicable) Natural, Social and Cultural Environment Knowledge, Arts Education, Physical Education, Foreign  Language [two in some regions], Mathematics, Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Religious Education |
| Stage 2 (grades 4-6, primary school): Polish, History and civics, modern foreign languages, Mathematics, Natural science, Music/ Art, Technology, Computer science, Physical education, lessons with class tutor |
| LOWER SECONDARY | 8 or 9 compulsory subjects, depending on the year, and is  gradually enriched by optional subjects | Italian, English Language, Second Foreign Language, History, Geography, Mathematics, Science, Technical Education, Information and Communication Technology, Music, Art And Drawing, Sport Sciences | Polish language, History, Civic education, modern foreign language, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Art/Music , Technology, Computer studies, Physical education, lessons with class tutor | first three years:  Natural Science, Physical Education, Social Science, Geography and History, Spanish Language  and Literature, co-official Language and Literature of the Autonomous Community (if  applicable), Foreign Language, Mathematics, Plastic and Visual Education, Music and Technologies, Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Religious Education  fourth year:  Spanish Language and Literature, co-official Language and Literature (if applicable), Ethical and Civic Education, Social Sciences, Geography and History, Mathematics, Foreign Language, Physical Education, three other subjects from a set established by the Government |
| SECONDARY UPPER | In the first year of general and technological *lycées*, subjects taught to all pupils are: French, History-Geography, Modern Languages 1 and 2, Mathematics, Physics - Chemistry, Life and Earth Science, Physical and Sports Education, Civic, Legal and Social Education.  + two 'exploration' subjects. ~~An optional subject may also be chosen or pupils may opt to attend an artistic workshop.~~ | core subjects common to the general, vocational and technical branch: Italian, History, Modern Foreign Language, Mathematics, Physical Education  subjects specific for each branch | Polish language, 2 foreign languages, History, Civic education, Culture studies, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Introduction to entrepreneurship, Information technology, Physical Education, Defence Training, lessons for class tutor, subjects specific for each specialty | common subjects to the three branches [Arts; Sciences  and Technology; Humanities and Social Sciences]:  Spanish Language and Literature, Spanish History, co-official Language and Literature (if applicable), Foreign Language, Sciences for the Contemporary World, Physical Education, Philosophy and Citizenship, History of Philosophy  subjects specific for each branch |

1. STUDENT EVALUATION / MARKS

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|  | FRANCE | ITALY | POLAND | SPAIN |
| Primary school |  | marks from 1 to 10;  1 is given very rarely - teachers usually start from 3 | marks: A, B, C,  certificate every year [descriptive marks] | Marks 1 to 10 |
| Lower secondary |  | marks from 1 to 10;  1 is given very rarely - teachers usually start from 3 | register for each class; minimum 3 marks per term [oral evaluation and written tests] 1 – 6;  1 = fail, 6 = excellent;  certificate every year | register for each class;  written tests 1 – 10;  1 – 4.5 = fail; 5 =OK, 6 = good 9 = excellent |
| Upper secondary |  | marks from 1 to 10;  1 is given very rarely – teachers usually start from 3;  6 – lowest satisfactory mark | register for each class; minimum 3 marks per term [oral evaluation and written tests] 1 – 6, 1 = fail, 6 = excellent  certificate every year | register for each class;  written tests 1 – 10;  1-4.5 = fail; 5 = OK 6 = good,  9 = excellent |

1. EXAMS & QUALIFICATIONS

Almost all students pass every year. We flunk them only if they really haven’t learned anything or if they have many absences from school. In good schools this happens very rarely.

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|  | FRANCE | ITALY | POLAND | SPAIN |
| PRIMARY | compulsory national testing in:   * first year of elementary classes * second year of the middle classes   [diagnostic purposes] | Szkoła podstawowa kończy się egzaminem składającym się z dwóch etapów: pierwszy to napisanie dwóch prac - jednej z języków i ekspresji, drugiej z matematyki i logiki; drugi to egzamin ustny obejmujący wiedzę ze wszystkich przedmiotów nauczanych w szkole | at the end:  state exam  [general knowledge in all subjects – no selection function] | no official academic certificate is awarded at the end |
| LOWER SECONDARY | French and Mathematics [11 years old]  at the end:  Brevet National:  pisemne z francuskiego, matematyki i historii-geografii oraz edukacji obywatelskiej  written in French, Maths, History and Geography, Citizenship | at the end of the first cycle: state examination  pisemny egzamin z języka włoskiego, języka obcego i matematyki oraz ustny ze wszystkich wykładanych przedmiotów | at the end:  state exam in  [Humanities, Sciences, Foreign Language] – determines admission to upper secondary school | at the end:  *Graduado en Educación Secundaria Obligatoria* (compulsory secondary school) certificate;  certificate in 4th year |
| UPPER SECONDARY | At the beginning [15 years old]:  ~~francuskiego, matematyki, historii-geografii (we Francji to jeden przedmiot) i języka obcego~~ [French, Mathematics, Histpry and Geography, Foreign Language  At the end:  ~~Egzamin maturalny (bakalaureat) zdawany jest z większości przedmiotów i w zasadzie obejmuje zakres przedmiotu wyłącznie z ostatniej klasy~~, i.e. it is taken in most subjects: 1 exam or several?  Students steered towards vocational options attend a professional *lycée* which will prepare them to acquire a vocational qualification to continue their education or enter professional life. Students attending a professional *lycée* can prepare for:  a vocational *baccalauréat*;  certificate of professional aptitude (CAP);  vocational studies certificate (BEP). | at the end:  state examination  egzaminem państwowym; Składa się on z trzech egzaminów pisemnych i jednego ustnego. Pierwszy egzamin pisemny to wypracowanie z języka włoskiego, drugi - test w języku obcym, składający się z pytań z różnych dziedzin wykładanych w szkole (na oba te egzaminy arkusze przygotowywane są na zlecenie ministerstwa). Trzeci pisemny przygotowywany jest przez nauczycieli danej szkoły i obejmuje zakres przedmiotów profilowanych wykładanych w szkole | at the end [except in except for the *zasadnicza szkoła zawodowa*]:   * state examination in Polish [written and oral], Mathematics, Foreign Language [written and oral] obligatorily   [basic level];  + any number of written exams of students’ choice  [basic or advanced level];   * vocational examination – vocational and technical schools | at the end:   * the *Bachiller* diploma * the *Técnico* degree – vocational schools * the Vocational Music and Dance Certificate * Plastic Arts and Design *Técnico* certificate * Sports *Técnico* certificate   certificate in 2nd year |